

The Swedish Environmental Flow Initiative



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Swedish Water House



The Swedish Water House

The aim Swedish Water House is to:

- build networks for water sustainability
- mobilise competence to support international processes
- further Swedish national and international co-operation.

Cluster Groups

Communication

Seminars



What is a SWH Cluster Group

Cluster groups work is thematic

- Gather the Swedish resource base and increase cooperation
- Strengthen the link between research and policy and decision making processes
- Increase the participation and contribution of Swedish actors in international processes related to water



The Swedish Environmental Flow Initiative

- Two group leaders (administrators)
- Core working group (policy briefs, reports etc...)
- Wider group (seminars and workshops)
- SWH – web page
www.swedishwaterhouse.se
- Link to international projects and networks



The Swedish Environmental Flow Initiative

- Initiated in March 2007
- Strive to include actors from a wide variety of sectors (science, NGOs, water managers, industry, policy, politics, law....)
- Agenda setting kick-off seminar in May

Kick-off Seminar

- Identify focus areas
- Identify key actors
- What can you get out from this group ?





Identified topics for the Swedish Environmental Flow Initiative

- How are environmental flows reflected in Swedish environmental law and policy frameworks such as the Environmental Objectives and the European Union Water Framework Directive.
- Links between flows, river ecosystems, poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Climate change impacts on river flow, consequences and adaptation strategies.

Different topics needs different core groups and attracts different actors

Environmental Flows in Sweden

Linking science and policy

- Sweden has a lot of water!!
- Low population density
- Water scarcity very rare
- Hydrological alterations associated with hydropower production (50% of energy production) → degraded ecosystems
- Main methods used now are standards for minimum flow (if any) = 5% of MAD.





Environmental Flows in Sweden

- There are policy requirements for change
 - **National environmental objectives**
 - **WFD**
- Series of seminars with invited speakers
- Workshop on identifying obstacles and opportunities for implementation of EF's in Sweden that better meets ecosystem needs



The Role of Environmental Flows in Reducing Poverty and Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG:s).

Side event at The World Water Week 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden

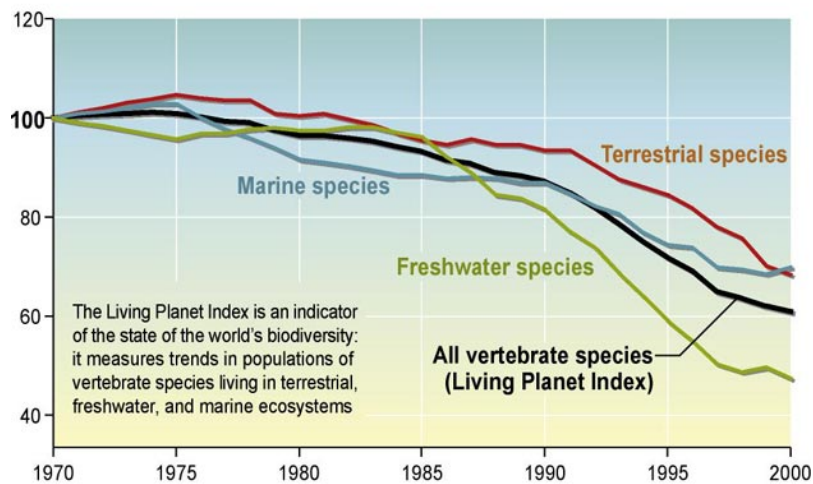
- Explore how the benefits of ecosystem services provided by flow are specifically reflected by poverty reducing strategies, such as the MDG's and if they are not, what are the obstacles.

Goal: Produce a policy brief aimed at government organizations, aid and donor agencies, hydropower industry operating in developing countries....

The Role of Environmental Flows in Reducing Poverty and Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG:s).



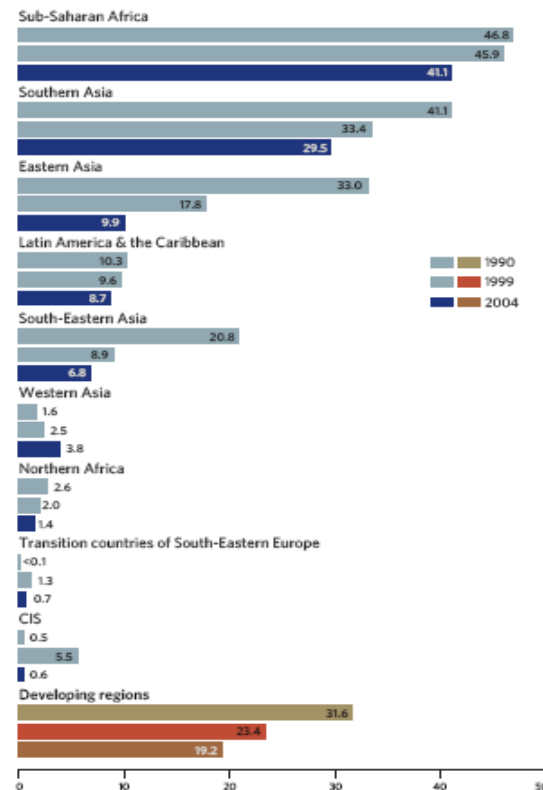
Population Index = 100 in 1970



The Living Planet Index is an indicator of the state of the world's biodiversity: it measures trends in populations of vertebrate species living in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems

Source: WWF, UNEP-WCMC

Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, 1990, 1999 and 2004 (Percentage)

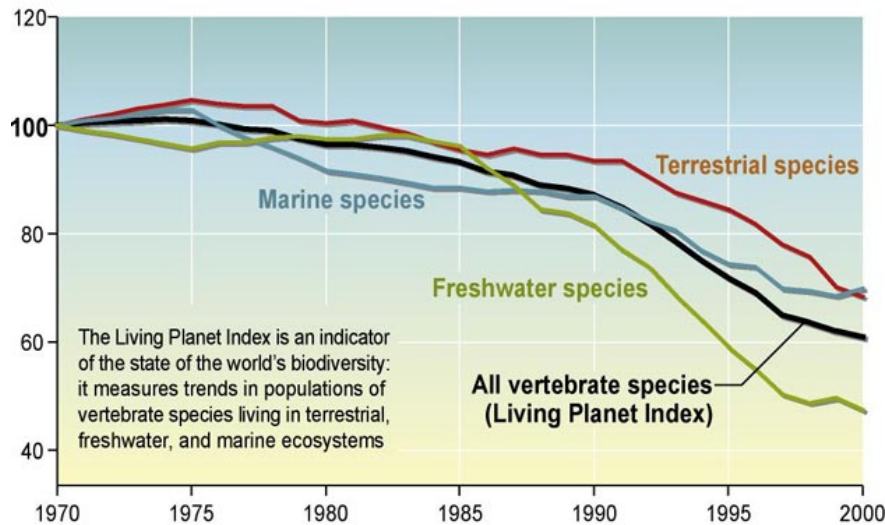


Worldwide, the number of people in developing countries living on less than \$1 a day fell to 980 million in 2004 – down from 1.25 billion in 1990. The

The Role of Environmental Flows in Reducing Poverty and Meeting the Millennium Development Goals.



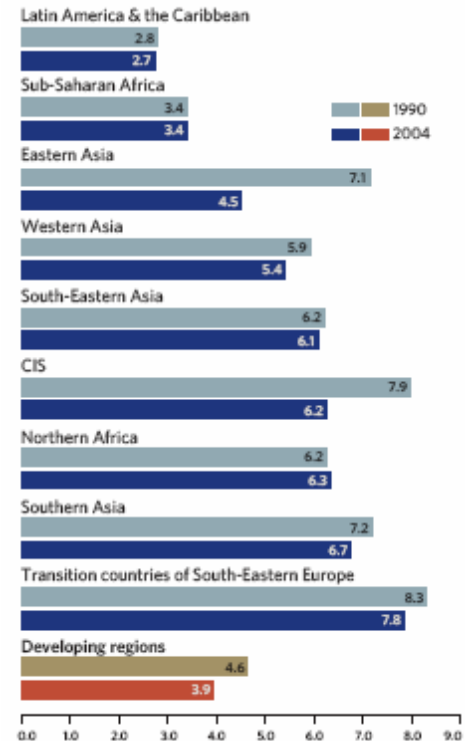
Population Index = 100 in 1970



Source: WWF, UNEP-WCMC

Poverty reduction has been accompanied by rising inequality

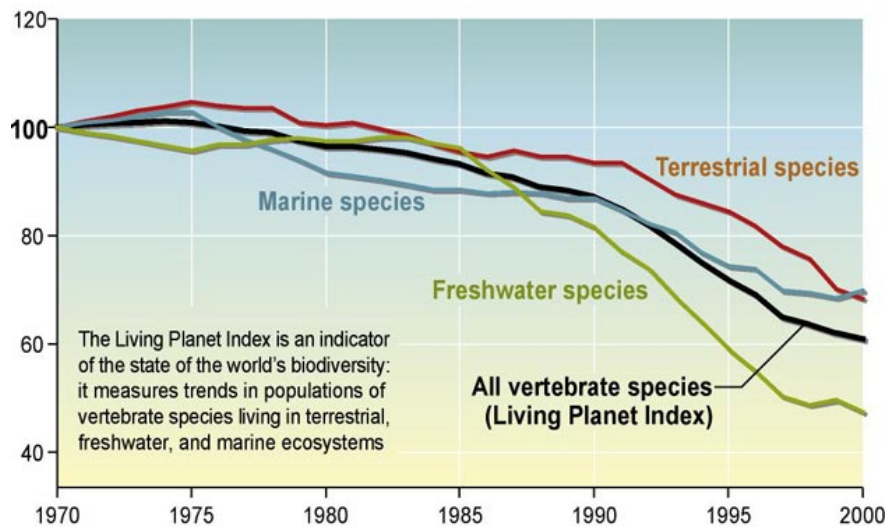
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, 1990 and 2004 (Percentage)



The Role of Environmental Flows in Reducing Poverty and Meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG:s).



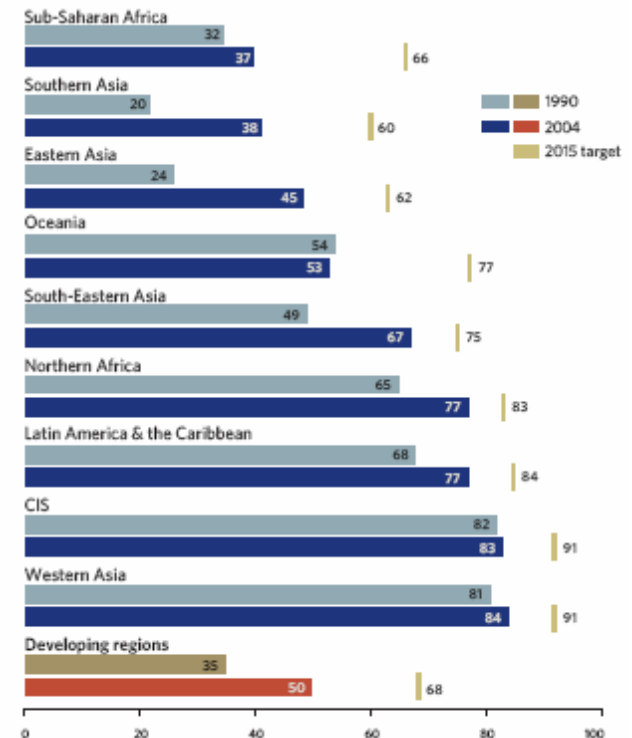
Population Index = 100 in 1970



Source: WWF, UNEP-WCMC

With half the developing world without basic sanitation, meeting the MDG target will require extraordinary efforts

Proportion of population using improved sanitation, 1990 and 2004 (Percentage)





Links to international projects and networks

The Swedish Environmental Flow Initiative
is a regional node in the Global
Environmental Flows Network

